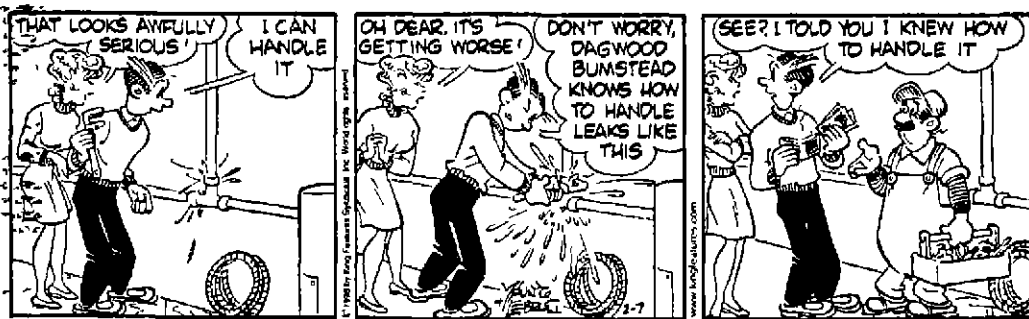


BLONDIE



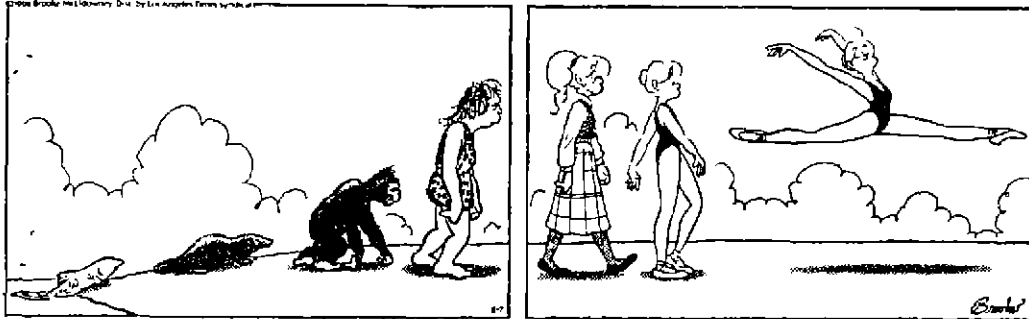
SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



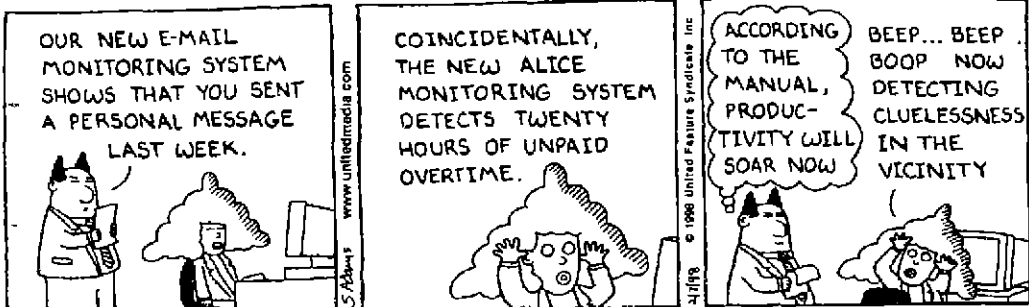
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



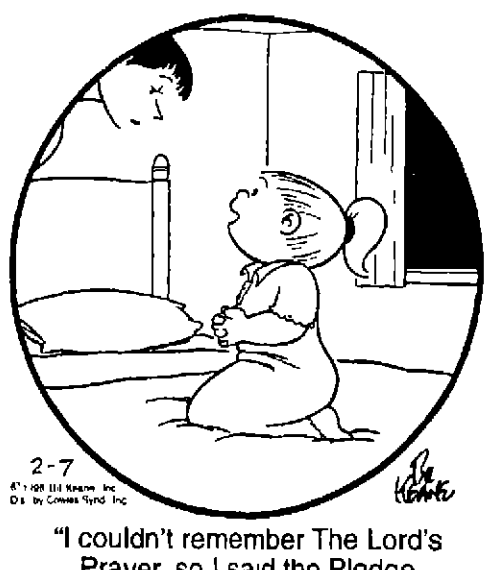
DILBERT



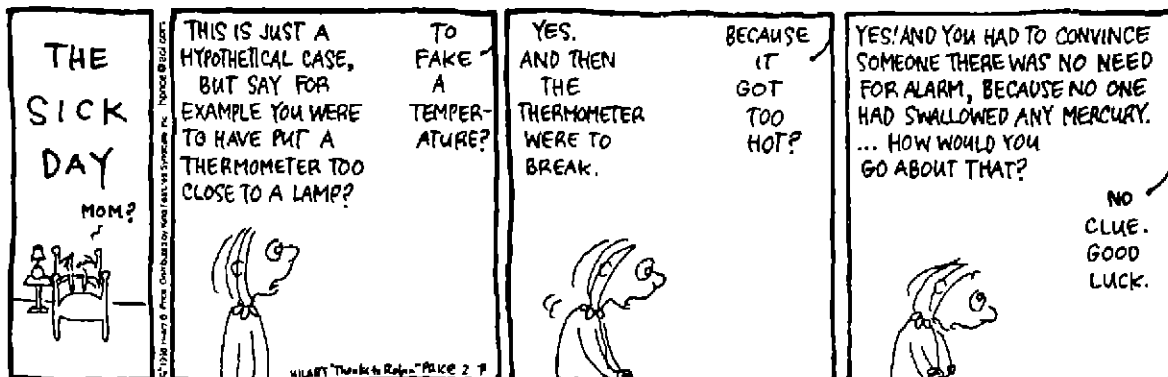
DENNIS THE MENACE



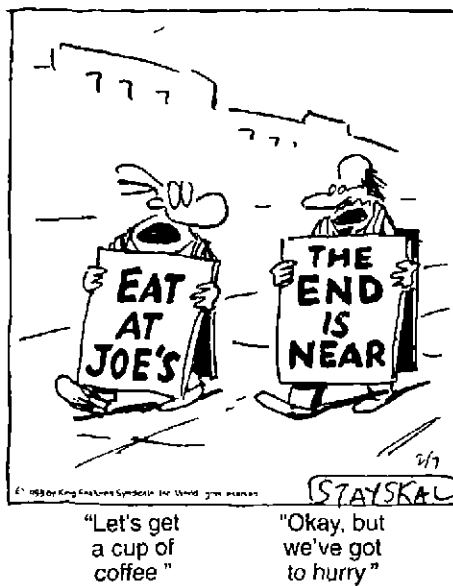
FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



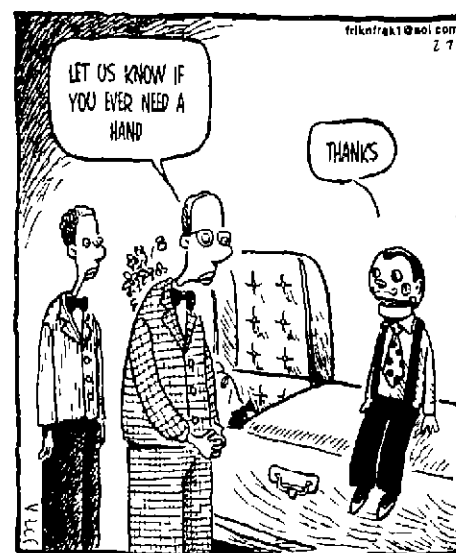
RALPH



Today's Birthdays

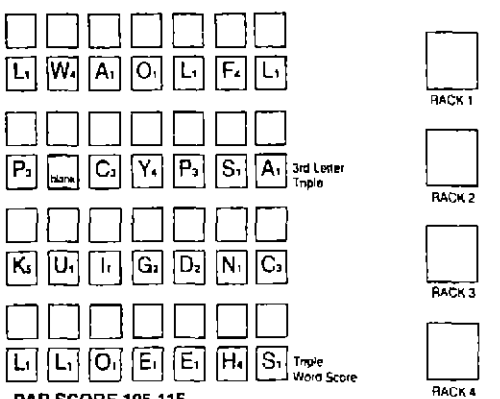
Actor Eddie Bracken is 78. Country singer Wilma Lee Cooper is 77. Author Gay Talese is 66. Blues singer-musician Earl King is 64. Actor Miguel Ferrer is 44. Reggae musician Brian Travers (UB40) is 39. Actor James Spader is 38. Country singer Garth Brooks is 36. Rock musician David Bryan (Bon Jovi) is 36. Actor-comedian Chris Rock is 32. Actor Jason Gedrick is 31. Actress Tina Majorino ("Conna, Conna") is 13.

I NEED HELP



Funeral for a ventriloquist.

SCRABBLE

PAR SCORE 105-115
by JUDDFOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merrill Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 2/7/98 © 1998 United Feature Syndicate Inc.

For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

Papal names

H R P M M J G D A X V E S Q N
K I F A D A X V T Q C O M J H
F T T R C A Y W R A U F R P N
L J N C E H H X F E A F D B Z
X V T E I D Y I I B T R O O M
K P I L C D N R I L N E H F D
B Z A L S O E A O Y E A P W V
T R R U B E N N X G M F B Q O
Y N I S L L H N E E E L K R I
H P F D C A O Z I B L R X W U
V U S R Q O I N M K C A G J I

Today's unlisted clue: COMEDIAN

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Saturday's unlisted clue hint: THE FIRST POPE

Alexander Benedict Boniface Clement Fabian Felix Gregory Hilary Innocent John Leo Marcellus Paul Prus Urban

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For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Sunday, Feb. 8, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Anything of a quiet nature appeals to you. You're not in the mood for company or for any kind of socializing. **TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) A special guest is coming for dinner, and you spend a good deal of time making preparations. **GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You're a bit down for no particular reason. However, your mood soon lifts thanks to the antics of a loved one. **CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Look for ways to make it a constructive day for you. Breaking out of your usual routine is favored. **LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22) Just when you thought you had a friend figured out, your amigo surprises you once again — which is what keeps your relationship exciting. Enjoy it! **VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You're not in a hospitable mood and are less than gracious to the company you have over. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A late start has you playing catch-up on domestic chores. By day's end you're satisfied with the fruits of your labor. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You strongly object to a child's social plans for the day. The activity in question definitely isn't suitable for someone so young. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You're in a somewhat spiritual mood and spend some time getting settled. **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) The weight of the world does not rest on your shoulders. Once you get out of that martyr mood, you can enjoy what's going on around you. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Your significant other has you shaking your head in wonder. Sometimes the two of you are on such opposite wavelengths! **PISCES** (Feb. 19 to March 20) You're in a festive social mood and welcome company with gracious ease.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

South played today's slam with his eyes only on the trump suit. His trump finesse lost, and the slam went with it. What alternate plan did South miss to better his chances of making the slam? South refused to cover West's spade queen and ruffed with his trump eight. Using his only dummy entry, he led a diamond to dummy's ace and passed dummy's trump 10 for a finesse. West played a deceptive deuce, and South led another trump. East's discard bringing bad news. With an unavoidable trump loser, South, in desperation, tried to drop the club queen, losing the slam when the queen failed to appear. How does South improve his chances to make the slam? After crossing to dummy's diamond ace, South should lead the club jack. When East doesn't cover, South drops his 10 under the jack. If the club finesse loses, South would lead a low club to dummy to take the trump finesse, giving him another finessing opportunity. After the club jack holds, South repeats the club finesse. If East ducks again, South can safely take the trump finesse. If East covers the second club, South cinches the slam by cashing his trump ace and leading a second trump.

NORTH 02 OF A

▲ K 8 6 3
♥ 10 5 3
♦ A 8 4
♣ J 9 8

WEST EAST

▲ Q J 10 7
♥ K 7 2
♦ 9 5 4 2
♣ 5 4

SOUTH

▲ A Q J 9 8 6
♥ K Q J
♦ A K 10 6

Vulnerable Both

Dealer South

The bidding

South	West	North	East
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Spade queen

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 1227

ACROSS

1 Groomed
8 Change in Toledo
15 World War I battle site
16 Part of a table?
17 Demand
18 1987 Daryl Hannah title role
19 Bug s bugbear
21 — a secret
22 Jerk
23 "Christ of St. John of the Cross" artist
25 Germane
27 Don't go
29 Rapid transit?
32 Sleeping aid?

DOWN

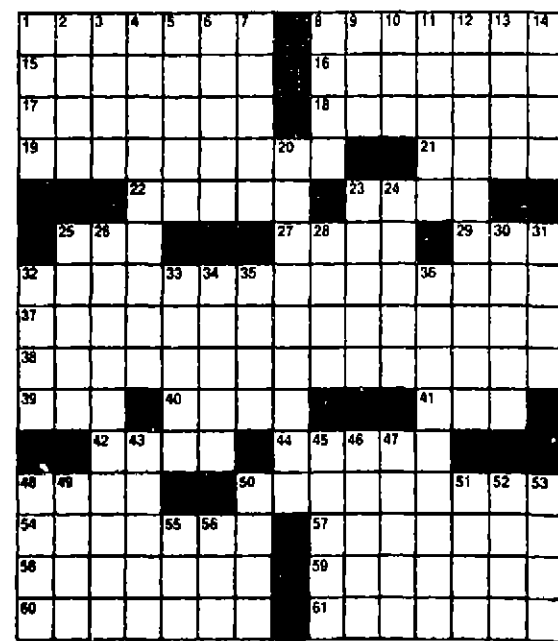
37 Bunkers
38 Latvia and Estonia once
39 Hair color
40 Director Wertmüller
41 Literary inits
42 — Prayer (1990 hit)
44 Major Czech export
46 Dear guy?
50 Thick fog
54 Popular retirement destination
57 Plot
58 Protective wall
59 Gas guzzlers
60 Office holder
61 Final order

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

BEDSPREAD AMN
AMNUENSES WAIT
LUNARCYCLE ERLE
RETORTED MER
TOMES EATALONE
IDA TUBA ORANTS
EDGE SAME IRINA
SISKEL BONACI
LASSO KCAR MAGI
ENTERS UNUM THO
ADENAUER OASTS
DER NEVADANS
INIT DECAPITATE
NDIAK ERADICATES
SLO TOSSABALL

DOWN

1 Croak
2 Romain de Tiroff's nom d'art
3 Foreign military leaders
4 Cousin of "It's rude to point!"
5 Sanskrit language group
6 Cain's eldest
7 Casual attire
8 I'll tell par exemple
9 "Turn to Stone" grip
10 Kind of symbol
11 PC post
12 Lets touch these
13 Part of a cornerstone inscription
14 Gun that uses nine-millimeter ammo
20 Actor's area
23 Cubes
24 Not straight
28 The Jackal, a g
29 Former county in central Scotland
30 1968 U.S. Open champ
33 Detritus on the side of a mountain



Puzzle by Martin Ashwood-Smith

31 "Red River" woman — Millay

32 Huelva house

33 Bull's delight

34 Eyelashes

38 Frigg's husband

39 Amérique

43 Down Under soldier

45 Added a wallop to

46 United

47 Donne's — and Sonnets

48 Quip

49 Mouthy?

50 Head

51 Air freshener option

52 Relentlessly

53 Quietus

55 Stop waffling

56 Name tag?

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch tone phone 1-900-420-5656 (75¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years 1-888-7-ACROSS